Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) during each of the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount Allocation	Amount Released
1998-99	180.00	180.00
1999-2000	180.00	180.00
2000-2001	145.50	145.50

(c) Thirteen districts of Orissa State are covered under the National Pulses Development Project. The area coverage alongwith the production of pulses during the last three years in the State are as under:

Year	Area ('000'hect.)	Prodn. ('000'tonnes)
1997-98	786.2	286.6
1998-99	721.9	249.3
1999-2000	686.0	245.8

Integrated Processed Food Development Act

3535. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to enact an integrated Processed Food Development Act in the near future; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the proposed legislation; and

(c) whether the proposed legislation would throw up vast employment opportunities in the food processing sector, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and industry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Department of Food Processing Industries organized four Regional Seminars at Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore and Lucknow to elicit regional inputs towards formulation of National Food Processing Policy. In these Seminars there was a general consensus that apart from formulation of a National Policy on Food Processing, an appropriate development oriented legislation be

conceived as there are many impediments to the growth of this sector at present.

Accordingly, a draft Bill has been drawn up. The proposed Act envisages *inter alia* harmonization and simplification of existing laws, development orientation, creation of a Development Fund, defining standards through a Processed Food Authority etc.

Increasing the yield of food crops

3536. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what strategy has been adopted by Government in the present decade to increase yield of major food crops;

(b) how far it has been successful;

(c) whether it aims to remove regional imbalances in the yield; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The strategy for increasing yield of major food crops involves development and adoption of improved technologies, extensive use of improved seeds possessing high yield characteristics and resistance to diseases and pests, optimal mix and increased use of organic and inorganic fertilizers, provision of irrigation facilities through watershed development, on-farm water management and conjunctive use of ground and surface water resources, plant protection through scientifc use of pesticides, effective transfer of technology and extensions delivery, etc.

(b) The yield of major crops in the past decade has shown upward trend, though the yield has been adversely affected due to vagaries of weather in some years, as can be seen in the Table given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) In order to increase yield/productivity in backward regions, regionally differentiated strategies are adopted through the Macro Management Scheme, Technology Missions and other area specific schemes/ crops/varieties.